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CHESTERFIELD

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1939.

By

John Reid Graham, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.
31st. December, 1939.

ATTENBOROUGH, J. Wessington.
BARRS, Alfred Josiah, Heath.
BATTY, Annie Jane (Mrs.), J.P., Killamarsh.
BIRDS, J. Brook Lynn, Holymoorside.
BECKETT, Alfred, Ridgeway Ward, Eckington.
BRADLEY, Frederick (senior), Stretton.
BRIERLEY, James, Shirland and Higham Ward.
CLEMENTS, John William, J.P., North Wingfield.
FENSOME, Sidney Thomas, J.P., Pilsley.
GOODLAD, John, Barlow.
HADLEY, G. J.P., Stonebroom.
HARDY, William George, Wingerworth.
HEELEY, William, Beighton.
HERRIOTT, Cornelius, Frecheville.
HOLMES, J. T. Brimington.
KAY, Horace, Eckington.
KAY, Robert, Holmesfield.
KENNING, C. B. (Mrs.) J.P., C.C., Ashover.
LAMB, Thomas, Somerset House, Calow.
LATHAM, William Leeke, (Revd.) Morton.
PEAT, Edwin, J.P., C.A., Mosborough Ward, Eckington.
PHIPPS, Henry, J.P., C.C., Brimington.
RIGGOTT, G.A. Over Newbold, Brampton Ward.
RANKIN, A.H. (Dr.) Main Road, Renishaw.
SALES, Samuel, Tufton.
SEARSTON, Herbert, North Wingfield.
SHARMAN, Walter, Unstone.
STATON, James, J.P., C.C., Beighton.
STIRLING, William, Temple Normanton.
SWINDELL, Joseph, J.P., Killamarsh.
TURBUTT, Richard Babington (Major), Brackenfield.
WHITMORE, Thomas, Hasland.
WOOD, Hiram, Frecheville.
WOODBINE, Wilfred Walter, Sutton-cum-Duckmanton.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health;

JOHN R. GRAHAM, M.B., Ch.B., (St. And.),
D.P.H. (St. And.).

Senior Sanitary Inspectors:

T.W. BINNS, Cert.S.I., Cert. Meat Inspector.
F. WATERFALL, Cert.S.I., Cert. Meat Inspector.

Sanitary Inspectors.

T.F. AYRTON, Cert.S.I., Cert. Meat Inspecto.
W.E. BOLTON, Cert.S.I., Cert. Meat Inspector.
K.H. LYNAS, Cert.S.I., Cert. Meat Inspector.
(resigned 30th. April, 1939).
E.A. GREGORY, Cert.S.I., Cert. Meat Inspector.
W.T. POWELL, Cert.S.I.
(appointed 1st. October, 1939).

Clerks.

Miss. D. BRUMMELL.
G. F. WILKS.
D. FREEMAN.
H. H. WATTS.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Owing to the outbreak of War the Ministry of Health has directed that the Annual Reports for 1939 should be as brief as possible, and in the nature of an interim report. As you are aware the greatest social change in the district was the reception of over 1,000 evacuees from Derby. The upheaval caused was great and steps to deal with difficult cases will be detailed in the body of this Report.

Many of the progressive and new schemes which we have had in hand are indefinitely postponed. Especially does this apply to sewage schemes and housing.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN R. GRAHAM.

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Offices,

Rural Council House,

Saltergate,

Chesterfield.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area of the District is 69,139 acres.

Population 70,480.

The Rateable Value of the District is £264,097.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £950.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>	TOTAL.	MALE.	FEMALE.
Legitimate.	12614	603	611
Illegitimate.	33	15	18
	—	—	—
	12647	618	629
	—	—	—

BIRTH RATE:- 19.11 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

<u>STILL BIRTH RATE.</u>	TOTAL.	MALE.	FEMALE.
Legitimate.	56	26	30
Illegitimate.	3	2	1
	—	—	—
	59	28	31
	—	—	—

STILL BIRTH RATE:- 25.75 per 1,000 total (Live and Still) births.

<u>DEATHS.</u>	TOTAL.	MALE.	FEMALE.
	717	388	329

DEATH RATE:- 10.16 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

DEATHS FROM Puerperal Causes.

Rate per 1,000
Deaths. total (live and
still births).

No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis.	0	0
No. 30. Other Puerperal Causes	1	0.74
	—	—
	1	0.74
	—	—

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	47.2
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate Live births	46.00
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live biths	90.19
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).	1

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

By far the greatest social change in the Rural District due to the war, was the reception of approximately 1,400 evacuees into private billets.

When schemes for receiving evacuees were discussed prior to the war I always contended the reception in private billets alone would not be a success and experience has amply borne out this contention.

In this area we had two types of evacuees to deal with,

1. Mothers accompanied by children.

2. Unaccompanied children.

The first category were by far the most unsatisfactory type for private billets. Quite a number of the evacuee mothers seemed to be under the impression that because a billeting allowance was being paid that it was the duty of the hostess to wait upon them and serve them. Others missed the amenities of the big town and became unsettled, not realizing that the idea of evacuation was safety and not the provision of all the amenities of town life.

Others of the evacuee mothers did their best to adapt themselves to the new conditions, but inevitably sooner or later, where two women both accustomed to running a separate house, tried to live and work in the one house, friction crept in and ended with the evacuee returning; one cannot help thinking how true the old doggerel is -

TWO women in one house,
Two cats with one mouse,
Two dogs with one bone,
All are best left alone.

Of 90 mothers evacuated with their 169 children in September 1939, 4 mothers and 7 children remained in the District on December of that year.

The unaccompanied children for the most part settled down quite well. I regret to say however, that quite a large number were not as clean as one could have wished. and every credit is due to the householders for the trouble they took to cleanse such children.

Notwithstanding, quite a number of the children were quite unsuitable for private billets. There were many cases of eneurisis, unruliness and children of low mentality, and it became evident within a few days of the reception that special provisions would be required for such cases.

Accordingly an empty house was taken to accommodate 36 children, and furnished. Here again one was rather left in the dark by the authorities as to the expenditure which might be incurred. By dint of borrowing and begged the place was furnished with the barest necessities, and ten days after the place was requisitioned, the first batch of children were admitted.

I feel I cannot pay high enough tribute to the ladies who spent the first weeks there. The Ambervale Hydro evolved from nothing, is now a smooth running institution fulfilling a great need and relieving the people of the Rural District of much trouble and anxiety.

The communal life of the group billet suits the children and the great majority settle down and never seem to miss the weekly or twice weekly visit to the cinema which seemed to be a feature of their previous life.

Health has improved and manners have altered out of all recognition.

So much for the group billet.

A problem which, up to the end of the year, was not tackled properly was that of making parents of some of the evacuees realize their responsibility for clothing their children.

The attitude of many of the parents as regards evacuee children was "out of sight out of mind". Foster parents and billeting officers have had the greatest trouble in getting shoes and clothing for children. This is a matter which it is to be hoped will be remedied in the very near future.

Another point in the evacuation scheme which could be vastly improved is the control of helpers and teachers sent out with the unaccompanied children. Many of these people did excellent work but quite a number seemed to still have the peace time mentality of 9 - 4 on weekdays, and no work from noon on Saturday to 9a.m. on Monday morning.

The teachers were under the control of their headmasters and each unit did as the headmaster or headmistress said. As a result there was no co-ordination. Some units did good work, but many did not grapple with the situation, whereas if some person had been appointed in charge, I consider that the position would have been much better and the responsibilities of the host. and hostess been greatly lessened.

In trying to prepare plans for receiving evacuees one is always up against this problem. Officially the local authorities are told that they may "earmark" premises for group billets, etc., but nothing can be done till the emergency arises. The great snag is that premises which are of suitable size for group billets usually need anything from a week to a fortnights intensive work before they are fit for occupation. Surely it is obvious that every scrap of accommodation would be needed. The expense involved would not be great viewed from a war-time standard, and to have such places ready, instead of having rushed and makeshift arrangements forced on local authorities, would make the evacuation scheme much easier to work.

The conclusion I have come to regarding evacuees are as follows:-

1. Unaccompanied children. 70% - 80% can be billeted privately, without causing bother in the receiving area. The remainder should be in group billets.

2. Mothers and children. I cannot see more than a very small percentage settling in private billets. I suggest hutments should have been provided to accommodate up to 100 mothers and children. There could then be some continuity of community life and the evacuees would be more likely to settle.

I am writing this report in 1940 and in the press there is at present a campaign demanding all sorts of amusements and amenities for evacuees in country places. Surely it is safety that should be the first consideration, and instead of the country conforming to town life and ways, it is up to the townfolk to conform to country ways.

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SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The following are brief particulars of works of sewerage and sewage disposal carried out during the year, which have been supplied by Mr. J. B. Wikoley, Assoc. ~~M. Fins~~ C.E., M. Eng. Engineer and Surveyor.

SEWERAGE. The following sewer extensions have been completed, the approximate lengths in yards being shown in brackets:

Calow, Blacksmith Lane	-	Direct labour	(40)
Wingerworth, Derby Road	-	" "	(220)
Frochoville, Birley Moor Road	-	" "	(230)
Wessington, Back Lane	-	" "	(50)
Hackenthorpe, Sheffield Road	-	" "	(210)

A sewer has also been laid by contract, at Old Brampton, from the Chesterfield Borough boundary to Hemming Grove, to which 48 properties will be connected, the sewage being treated by the Chesterfield Corporation.

SEWERAGE and SEWAGE DISPOSAL. Sewers and disposal works have been completed at Gleadless to treat sewage from the Balloon Barrage Station and private housing estates.

A scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal has been prepared to serve the inhabited areas (except Hardwick Wood) of Wingerworth Parish and to include Grassmoor, replacing the existing Grassmoor sewage disposal works which are inefficient and in bad condition owing to mining subsidence. This scheme has had to be postponed on account of the War.

A sewer at Temple Normanton to serve new properties at present draining to cesspools and improvement of the sewage works, has also been postponed, and other smaller schemes which are in preparation are for the present in abeyance.

Improvements to sewage works and sewers - Only minor repairs and improvements have been done to sewage works. Repairs to sewers and manholes, and the provision of new manholes, have been carried out at Eckington, Mosborough, Halfway, Hasland, Pilsley and Shirland.

The number of the old type of communal septic tank in the District has been reduced to ten.

Work on the construction of roads and sewers have been commenced on the Stonebroom and Wessington housing estates.

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PREVALENCE and CONTROL of INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Once again I am pleased to report that no cases of smallpox were notified during 1939.

Mr. Cope, the Vaccination Officer, reports as follows:-

Number of children born in 1938	3,105
Number of vaccinations of all ages in that year.....	800
Births registered during 1939.....	2,953
Vaccinations carried out during the year.....	711

INCIDENCE and CONTROL of INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Smallpox.

No cases were notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever.

183 cases were notified. No deaths were registered from this disease. The number notified shows an increase of 11 over the previous year.

Diphtheria.

The number of cases notified during the year was 108 as against 299 the previous year. Three deaths occurred from this disease giving a case mortality of 3.58% as against 3.67 for the previous year.

Cerebro-spinal Fever.

Three cases were notified. One death was registered.

HOUSING.

The housing problem which faces the Council due to stoppage of all rebuilding is a very serious one indeed. Well over 1,000 houses have either confirmed clearance orders on them or demolition orders.

The people in such houses cannot be rehoused and naturally the landlords of such properties are unwilling to spend money on them.

It does not require much imagination to visualize the condition such properties (bad to start with) will soon be in.

It is true to state that many tenants are now living in houses which are literally falling down. In particular, there are the Blocks at Stonebroom. Twelve months ago I heard the outbuildings there referred to as a "devastated area" and conditions now are very much worse.

Unfortunately at present the Council are powerless in the matter, meanwhile people in the area have to exist in hovels which are not even weather proof.

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1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year 1939:-

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	402
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	4683
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932.	324
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	324
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	324
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	78

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.

37

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.

10

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice.

2

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.

15

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners.

7

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.

-

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition Orders were made.

23

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.

15

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.

1

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.

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4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the Year.

191

(2) Number of persons dwelling therein.

1485

(3) Number of families dwelling therein.

207

- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.
 - (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. 13.
 - (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases. 99.
 - (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.
5. Number of houses demolished in Clearance Areas during 1939. 114.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

	Number in use at end of 1939.
Privy Middens	4071
Pail Closets.....	717
Water Closets.....	15343
Trough and Slop water Closets.....	47
Total.....	<u>20178</u>

CONVERSION of WATER CLOSETS in 1939.

Privy Middens.....	277
Pail Closets.....	2
Total.....	<u>279</u>

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

1939.

	No. on Register.	Inspections made.	Notices Served.	Nuisances abated with or without notice.
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.	600	154	4	91
Bakehouses.	19	21	-	-
Slaughter houses.	40	3556	-	43
Offensive Trades.	1	4	-	-
Common Lodging-houses.	1	4	-	-
Total.	661	3739	4	134

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Summary of the Work of the Sanitary Department.

	No. of inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.	No. Of Notices Served.		No of Nuisances abated with or without notice.
		Informal.	Legal.	
<u>Closets and Ashpits:-</u>				
Defective Privies, Pail Closets and Ashpits (not for conversion).	15	1	-	4
Conversion of Privies into W.C.'s.	1224	48	-	277
Conversion of Privies into Pail Closets.	3	-	-	1
Defective Water Closets.	21	4	-	13
Provision of additional Water Closets.	38	-	-	3
Provision of Portable Ashbins.	473	127	-	409
Dirty Closets.	3	-	-	1
Conversion of Pail Closets	5	-	-	2
<u>Drainage:-</u> into W.C.'s.				
No disconnection of Waste pipe.	-	-	-	-
Defective Waste pipe, Traps inlets and Drains.	811	31	7	44
Drains obstructed.	43	6	-	25
<u>Other Defects:-</u>				
Paving of Courts and Yards.	195	-	-	257
Roofs, Eaves-Spouts, and Down-Spouts.	31	9	1	25
Sinks.	30	1	-	19
Insufficient Ventilation.	-	-	-	-
Windows.	20	4	-	11
Dampness.	63	5	1	27
Water in cellars.	16	2	-	3
Water supply.	59	1	-	3
Overcrowding.	9	-	-	-
Foul condition of houses.	19	-	-	3
Offensive accumulations.	18	-	-	2
Animals improperly kept.	17	-	-	-
Pigsties.	3	-	-	-
Smoke nuisances.	2	-	-	1
Urinals.	11	1	-	4
Nuisances not specified above.	1556	28	1	628
TOTAL.	4685	268	10	1766



